

From: Maggie Beauchamp [mailto:maggiebeauchamp@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 11:46 PM

To: MLPAComments

Subject: Public comments from Margaret Beauchamp for the MLPA Long Beach Meeting - Mr. Ken Wiseman

Please print and review the attachment which includes this letter and the pictures that go with it. Thank you!

February 26, 2009

Mr. Ken Wiseman
Director of MLPA
Care of California Resources Agency
1416 9th St Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wiseman,

I am writing to take this opportunity to submit my public comment for your consideration during the MLPA process for the Southern California region. Since I am unable to attend the next meeting to be held in Long Beach, I hope that you will share my comments with the rest of the MLPA team and stakeholders.

I have lived in the San Diego area for 22 years and moved here mainly to enjoy all that life brings in a coastal community. I am the mother of 2 children who were born and raised here and I have been very active in the community, mainly in support of various children activities from being involved in the PTA as a board member, classroom mom, Junior Achievement instructor, assistant coach for soccer and cheerleading, organized and volunteered for numerous fundraisers and events for the children both in the classroom and the community, and other functions to better the lives of our community. My belief is that we all need to be involved in making our community a better place by staying involved to keep our children headed in the right direction. This is the main reason that I submit my comments, to be able to continue to maintain our valuable resources while teaching respect and education of our environment.

I understand it is important to save our Oceans, and I wonder what this MLPA will do for the Clean Water Act. It is also important for us to understand that those who use the ocean can do so in a manner that will allow fishing in some areas. We can work and play in areas that are managed; however no one can work or play in closed areas. I trust that you understand that our local ocean is open to young children who will grow to respect our ocean and have a better understanding of Mother Nature while able to spend time on the water.

Without sport fishing, we can not teach our children about the local fish and other marine life; there is no better learning tool then hands on learning. I have witnessed this throughout my work over the years with children and teaching the children about marine life can not work as effectively if our local areas are closed. During these tough economic times, severe state budget cuts in education and class-sized reduction being taken away; our children are feeling the impact. Both parents have to work to maintain rising costs if they are lucky enough to even have jobs. Families are losing their homes and parents are feeling the burden and stress that surely must be passed on to their children.

The bottom line is that the children are suffering and feeling the burden of losing time with their parents, teachers, their homes and other sacrifices due to the sign of the

times. We need to provide an environment where children can fish and enjoy all that the ocean and marine life has to offer. In keeping the children in a healthy and active community environment, we may just make a huge difference in their future. I am including pictures that I took this past year of some fishing derby events that I assisted in organizing where the children were educated about respect for the ocean, fishing, and practicing catch and release. There was even a prize awarded for the catch and release of the fish. This event created a family bonding time where moms, dads, grandparents and friends put aside their worries and had some incredible family bonding time. I can't even begin to describe how respectful and well-mannered these children were as they enjoyed this great event! Please don't take this away by closing down critical areas in the south coast region! Look at the pictures and tell me how you can look these kids and their parents in the eye and tell them you are taking that away from them. I can't do that without doing all I can to save these simple pleasures in life for them.

My understanding is that closures in the south coast region are imminent. Please consider when drawing those lines what the impact will be for our children, families, retirees and community. Slot limits work and have been proven to work in Florida, and rotating MPAs work as well. Make the right decision and consider where our children are headed as a result of all they are faced with in today's economy and family obligations. Make the right choice. Please. I don't know what else to say to describe the looks in the faces of these children who are in daycare and classrooms as early as 6 am until 6 pm each weekday. Let them have the time to enjoy an incredible feeling of catching a fish of a lifetime, even if it is a mackerel that this precious little girl held on to with determination and pride...

Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can be of any help in this process, I will continue to be involved until resolution.

Sincerely,

Margaret Beauchamp, Proud Mother and Member of the San Diego Community
9568 Hiker Hill Road
San Diego, CA 92129







